

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Success Story Winners</b> <b>State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference 2000</b></p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference success stories recognize exceptional and distinguished achievement in Great Lakes ecosystem improvement. The following organizations will be receiving SOLEC success story awards on Wednesday, October 18, 2000.

### **Ontario Power Generation**

Ontario Power Generation will plant at least 1.6 million native trees and shrubs over the period from 2000 to 2005, as part of its carbon sequestration and biodiversity management program. This will sequester in the order of 900,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the lifetime of the trees. The tree planting program is a component of OPG's greenhouse gas management plan to address global climate change and part of their ongoing efforts to conserve biodiversity. The program uniquely achieves business goals of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by investing in meaningful habitat restoration activities to enhance the long-term vibrancy of fragmented and degraded landscapes in southern Ontario. Local communities, as well as OPG, will benefit as we work to leave a living legacy of reinvestment back into nature for future generations. For more information, please contact: Steve Hounsell, Ontario Power Generation at (416) 592-2766.

### **Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan**

Bay Area Restoration Council will be accepting the SOLEC success story award on behalf of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan. BARC is an incorporated, non-profit, charitable organization established in 1991 to promote, monitor and assess the implementation of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (RAP). To date, BARC has involved over 1200 volunteers with activities that help in the clean up and restoration of Hamilton Harbour.

BARC encourages the goal of improving the quality of water resources in Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. One of the RAP recommendations deals with the issue of water quality and improvement of water in the local ecosystem. BARC's mandate inherently ensures considerable attention and work towards maintaining and improving water quality of local water resources.

It should be noted that Hamilton Harbour has achieved considerable success. For example, the Halton Skyway Pollution Control Plant has been optimized and is now possibly the best performing conventional secondary wastewater treatment plant in Ontario, meeting initial RAP phosphorus guidelines. The Hamilton- Wentworth, Combined Sewer Outfall program, has helped to restore swimming to parts of the harbour. The international award winning Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project has restored 340 hectares of habitat in the Harbour and Cootes Paradise. The work of the municipalities and the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners is improving access to the

Harbour Shoreline from 13 to 21% in the past ten years. For more information, please contact: Mark Sproule-Jones at (905) 529-9140, ext. 23898.

### **Rural Water Quality Program**

The Rural Water Quality Program (RWQP), an initiative of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, provides financial assistance to farmers implementing projects to improve water quality in priority surface and groundwater areas. This is the first time in history an Ontario municipality has contributed finances to directly assist farmers in implementing best management practices to protect source water. The RWQP program is contributing to the development of policies and practices to protect the Regional Municipality of Waterloo's groundwater resources. The Region has committed \$1.5 million to this program from its user rate budgets; additional funds are provided by the National Soil and Water Conservation Program and the Grand River Conservation Authority. The technical and financial assistance program was developed by farmers and over 15 local farm organizations were on the steering committee. This provided a lot of local support to the program. To date over \$500,000 has been provided to landowners to implement over 150 best management practices that improve and protect water quality. For more information, please contact: Tracy Ryan at the Grand River Conservation Authority (519) 621-2761

### **Environmental Farm Plan**

The Environmental Farm Plan is a highly successful partnership engaging over 30 farm organizations under the umbrella Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) together with a number of federal and provincial agencies with responsibilities relating to agriculture, natural resources and environment. The EFP, developed through a consultative process, is delivered locally by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association while governments provide financing and technical support to the development and delivery process.

Under the EFP, farmers voluntarily attend two workshop sessions in the course of completing a workbook and developing an environmental action plan for their farm. The workbook contains a variety of modules covering a wide range of on-farm environmental issues - from soil management and erosion control to waste and pest management and the maintenance of woodlands and wildlife habitat. To date over 18,000 farmers (the principal stakeholders) or approximately 1/3 of the 55,000 registered farm businesses in Ontario have voluntarily participated in EFP workshops or completed a home study package. Our goal is helping to achieve the establishment of a more environmentally responsible agricultural sector through out Ontario. For information, please contact: David Armitage (416) 485-3333.

## **Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council**

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to protect and enhance water resources including inland lakes, the Great Lakes, streams, rivers wetlands and ground water. The Watershed Council promotes these goals through water quality monitoring, supporting sound environmental policies, technical services, and providing capacity building consultation to other organizations. In addition, the Watershed Council has coordinated several state and Great Lakes basin wide efforts, including the Michigan River Network, the Michigan Wetland Action Coalition, the Great Lakes Wetland Policy Consortium, and the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund. Watershed Council programs focus on providing essential information and forming partnerships with landowners, local businesses, and government. Together, these programs combine to have a powerful synergistic effect that can serve as a model for other initiatives across the Great Lakes Basin. For more information, please contact: Jill Ryan at (231) 347-1181.

## **Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network**

The Watershed Initiative Network is a volunteer organization that includes more than 90 citizens and focuses on opportunities to better link the economic, social and environmental well being of Saginaw Bay communities in order to sustain and improve the region's quality of life.

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) was created to enhance the quality of life in the Saginaw Bay Watershed by creating regional networks of on-the-ground projects that demonstrate sustainability. The projects funded through WIN must link economic, environmental, and community goals. The partnership includes communities, conservationists, foundations, and businesses working together to balance the region's economic, environmental, and social goals. For more information, please contact: Mike Kelly at (517) 662-6024

## **Xerox**

Xerox is striving to become a waste free organization – and views waste elimination as productivity improvement. Xerox has a clear goal in sight: waste free manufacturing to produce waste free products which work in a waste free office. At Xerox manufacturing plants the waste free concept extends from pollution prevention, emissions reduction and hazardous materials elimination to the responsible resource consumption through the most advanced integration of 3Rs principles. Xerox products are "designed for the environment", which means that they are designed to be capable of part reprocessing and recycling. Xerox reduces office waste by electronic storage and distribution of documents and printing on demand. Xerox also offers a range of recycled and chlorine-free papers and designs products to work well with recycled content paper. Everything that is delivered to the customer is returnable: machines, cartridges, spares and packaging are re-used, reprocessed or recycled. For more information, please contact: Anne Stocum at (716) 422-1655